

Publishing the Prophet

A French-American Comparison

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Question

to publish or not to publish?

January 7

- Satirical weekly, Charlie Hebdo, is attacked by Kouachi brothers
- 12 journalists are murdered
- Freedom of expression debate is sparked worldwide



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Fourth Estate

- “And yonder sits the Fourth Estate, more important than them all.”
— Edmund Burke
- Free press is vital to a free society
- Free, courageous, responsible

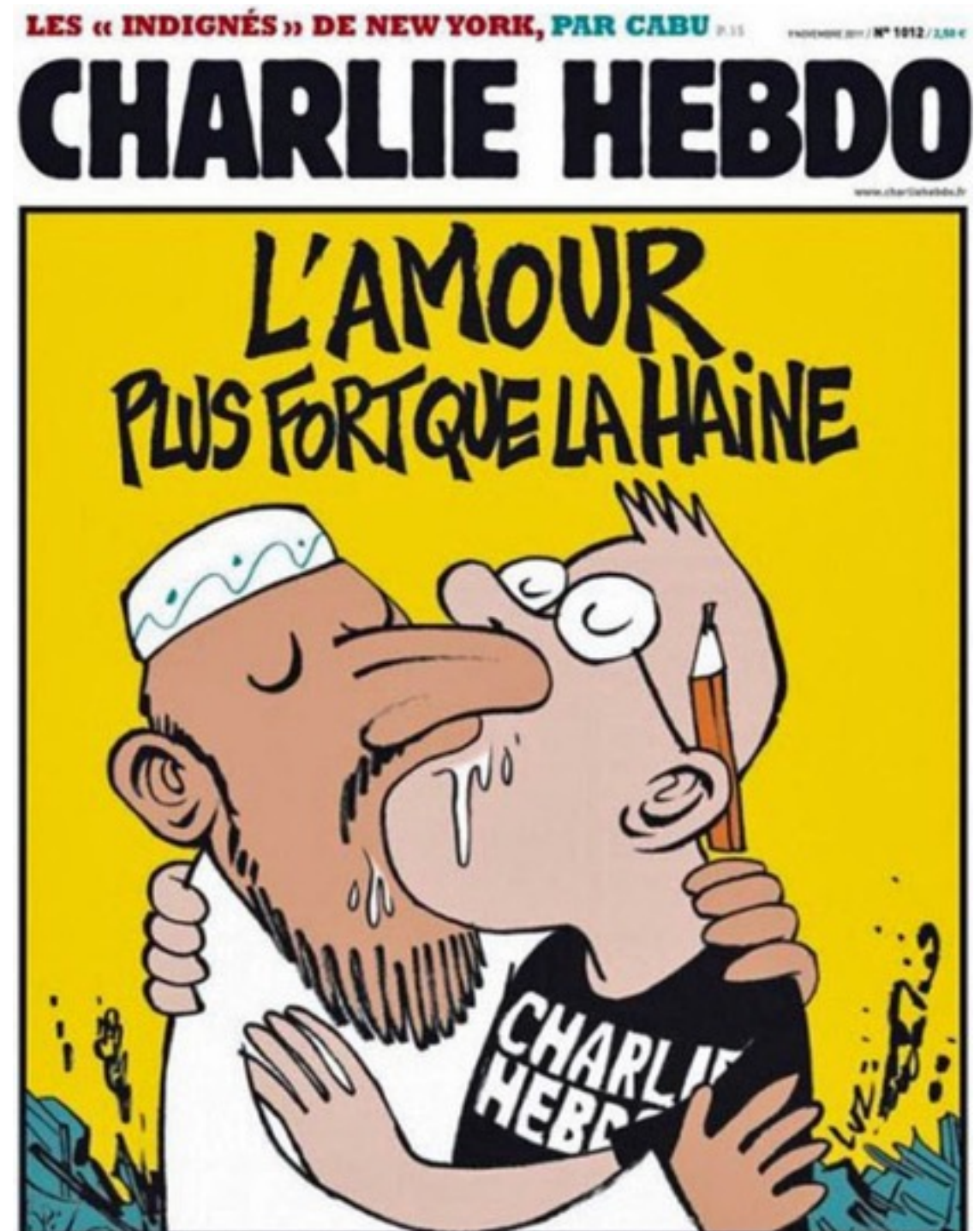


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Debates

- Laïc or islamophobic?
- Changing French identity
- Unemployment
- PEN “freedom of expression courage” award
- Charlie Hebdo discontinues Muhammad cartoons

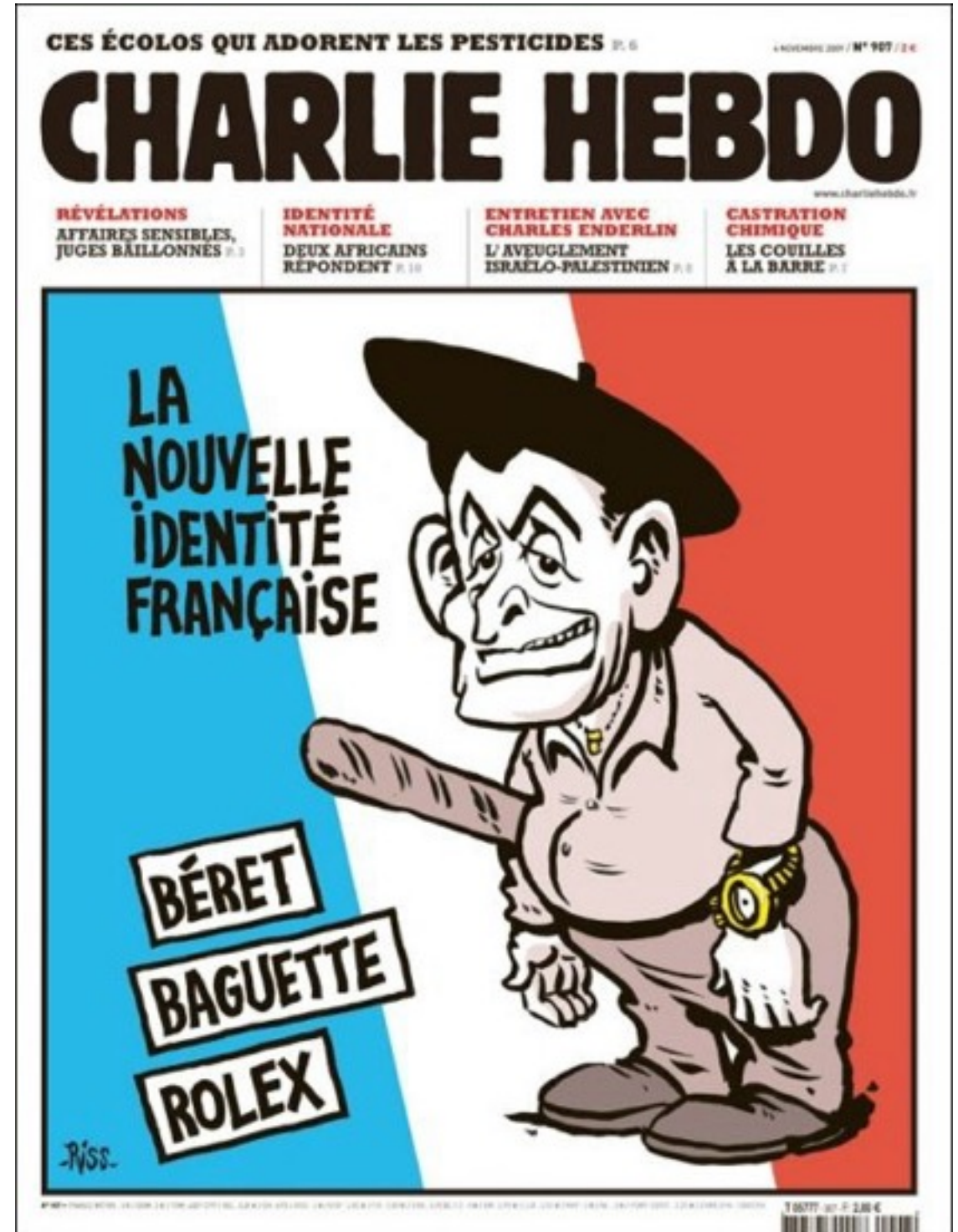


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Law

- Impact of law on society
- First Amendment
- Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen
- Law of 1905
- *Hustler. v. Falwell*
- *Mosque of Paris v. Val*



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Journalism

- Le Monde republished
- New York Times did not
- International debate surrounding freedom of expression
- Metajournalistic discourse
 - defining boundaries
 - establishing practices



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Conclusion

- Courage, rather than fear, in the face of crisis
- Importance of satire — must live on in journalism
- Must publish — make use of civil liberties



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Answer

both the French and American press are free, and it follows that both the French and American press should publish freely